

The Bloomfield Record.

Science in Montclair.

Montclair is eminently a village in which wealth is made to minister to the requirements of a cultured taste for learning, art and science, rather than in catering for indulgence in other less enabling avenues of enjoyment. The regard for belles lettres—the earnest desire of her leading citizens to exert a controlling influence over the masses for that which is true and good—is evidenced in the enterprise inaugurated, as well as the cordial support and faithful energy that has carried forward, her Public Library and High School projects. In the arts no more striking example of esthetic need be pointed out than the beautiful church edifice, at once costly and classic in design, rising proudly from its site on Fullerton avenue, while the many elegant dwellings that bedeck the hillsides and avenues in all directions bear the same truthful record of a cultured community. In respect to science, this more properly refers to individuality in attainment, and brings us really to the subject matter which suggested and inspired this tribute to Montclair from a Bloomfield newspaper. We are not, however, about to announce any startling invention or discovery in the realm of scienee as emanating from the village on the heights through personal achievement. Only the fact that an astronomical telescope of considerable size and power—one of the finest in this part of the country, is in process of permanent erection here by a gentleman whose quiet taste for books and the liberal arts and sciences is well known and appreciated by his fellow townsmen.

Last Saturday evening the writer received through Mr. John Oakes of this place, from Mr. Samuel Wilde owner of the instrument spoken of, an invitation to witness its performance. Though not yet permanently mounted the tube was to be directed skyward for views of Saturn, now in a favorable position for observation. Perhaps it is proper to state, just here, that Mr. W.'s courteous invitation came not through any desire of his to have the new instrument advertised, but probably from a wish we expressed some time ago to see it in practical use, star-science having always been with us a study of special interest! Mr. Oakes, while the instrument is being fitted up and familiarized to its owner, acts as chief operator and astronomer. His valuable experience with nautical and philosophical instruments having been utilized by Mr. Wilde in procuring this telescope. The maker is Mr. John Byrne of New York. Its object-glass dimensions are an aperture of 6 inches and a focal length of 8 feet 2 inches. It has equatorial mountings, and eyepieces for magnifying diameters respectively 64, 128, 213, 320 and 640 times. There is also a prism eye-piece, by which objects can be viewed at a right angle with the tube—a great advantage when the object is at any considerable altitude above the horizon. Saturn, viewed with a power of 320, was truly a beautiful sight, eliciting great admiration from the ladies and gentlemen who viewed it. Those with practised eyesight could easily discern several of the satellites, and what is more difficult in their present obliquity, the dark space between the rings. The several bands encircling the body of the planet were distinctly visible. Several other interesting objects were seen with various magnifying powers, the night being very clear and the air perfectly at rest.

Mr. Wilde and his village are fortunate in the possession of so fine and powerful a telescope, there being, we believe, none larger in New Jersey.

The Foes of the Household.
(From the N. Y. Times.)

It is not without feelings of apprehension that a husband of the present day glances into the windows of the bonnet-makers and milliners. The show which is presented to him is a picture of the demands which will be made on his purse this Winter. What is offered to his notice at this moment is not calculated to put him in good spirits. The bonnets or hats, or whatever the mysterious articles are to be called, are evidently made up more extravagantly than ever. The other day it was announced that bonnets during the coming Fall and Winter would be trimmed with lace and ribbon; that specimens of this kind might easily cost \$10. Poor *paterfamilias!* His heart sinks within him as he reads the melancholy tidings. A failure, not immediately affecting himself; a burglary, in his neighbor's house; an earthquake in some other part of the country—these events would not make him half so miserable. Even in ordinary times, the price of a bonnet is out of all proportion to its worth, or to the means of its purchaser. It ranges from \$25 to \$50, not including the cost of lace, ribbon, &c., and we believe the lady of the present age expects at least four or five bonnets a season, and then will boast of being much more economical than "other women." A bonnet for which \$35 is charged is seldom worth intrinsically more than \$10; and how many men are there, in these shaky times, who can hardly afford to buy four or five bonnets at a sum such as that?

Milliners and dress-makers have sent more husbands and wives to the divorce courts than all other human beings combined. They are the great sowers of domestic unhappiness. As a class, they are unworthy of the least respect, for they seldom attempt to do business on honest principles. Perhaps none of their customers care a whit in dealing with them, they get the full value of their money or not, and, relying upon this state of things, the bonnet-seller and dress-maker almost invariably become cheats. They go over to Paris and get one or two bonnets as patterns, (which they contrive to smuggle through the Custom-house,) and then get them imitated here at a very cheap rate. These bonnets are the real "second article," and of course no one is content now with anything of home make. In the matter of dress, it is much the

same. The material itself, even though it be of the finest silk to be bought, costs little in comparison with the bill for "trimmings." That will generally range from \$10 to \$150, and no doubt many of you have heard of such enormous bills for much larger sums than either of these. That wonderful "tie-back" arrangement, which is now thought to be the cause of these enormous charges for "trimming," for people had to pay them before they began to "tie-back." The truth is, that whatever may chance to be the fashion, the dress-maker soon makes it the vogue of extravagance, not to say the ugly vice of the hour. We hear of fashions every trade out hours. She comes home almost a beggar, and after a few years she drives a showy carriage, and dings the dust of Fifth avenue in the face of the people whom she has largely helped to ruin.

Why women should be content to submit to the ruthless tyranny of these persons it is very hard to understand, unless they must be of the fashion, "no one is too poor to dress up." But if they only stood out for even a few weeks against the outrageuous prices now exacted for their finery, the dress-maker or milliner would soon be brought to her senses. And, no doubt, if women had to pay the bills of these harpies themselves, that is the course they would take. Men's dresses afford comparatively little scope for cheating; but still, if they were as successful as the women tailors, and were to run up bills almost equal to those of the dress maker. But, as a rule, men keep a watch over their expenditures, and take good care, at any rate, that the tailor shall not rob them by wholesale. They try to get the worth of their money. And that is a matter to which the women of present day seldom pay any attention. Ask them if a bonnet for which \$35 is charged is worth \$35, and they will answer no. But they "know" it all the same; and those of us who have lived long enough to get a gray hair or two in our heads know that what they want will have, sooner or later. It is, then, only from their sense of kindness and justice toward their own families that any change for the better can be looked for. They can, if they like, take the part of the poor kidneys, and argue the virtues of the venturous who now tempt them to spend more than they can afford. It was stated the other day that a number of ladies in Paris had resolved to dress only in the cheapness of materials all the summer, such as a prints and muslins. Of course, they were French ladies. And these dresses were to be made up in the cheapest way possible, so as to save a custom that is likely to become universal? When would Worth and all his tribe, male and female, be in a couple of years? Sweeping crossings or scrubbing floors—honest occupations both than those which they now follow. Ladies would not suffer—for never does a pretty woman look so pretty as when she is neatly and plainly dressed. Who is there that cannot summon from the depths of his memory some girl, all radiant in beauty, of whom there is no more to say than she can be put into the two words of the poet—*urum teqit?* Was it dress which gave to that form its unforgivable charm? No, nor is all this excess of outward adornment ever attractive to men; perhaps it is not meant to be. Whatever may be its object, we know the result. The dress-makers and tailors, the milliners and dress-makers, people usually without education or taste, upon whom the responsibility rests for so large a part of the extravagance and misery of modern life.

Gen. Spinner has returned to his old home in Herkimer Co., N. Y., where he expects to reside permanently. He will not be a candidate for State Treasurer of New York under any circumstances whatever he viewed it. Those with practised eyesight could easily discern several of the satellites, and what is more difficult in their present obliquity, the dark space between the rings. The several bands encircling the body of the planet were distinctly visible. Several other interesting objects were seen with various magnifying powers, the night being very clear and the air perfectly at rest.

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